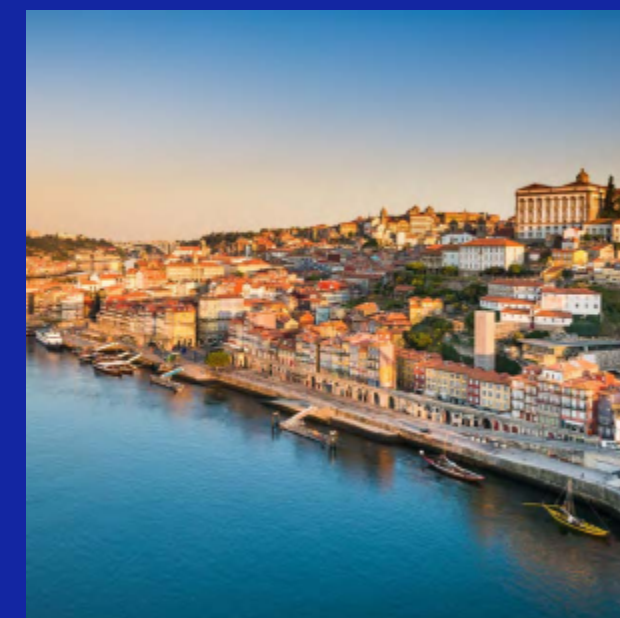


Citizenship and residency by investment

Comparison of offers in the EU,
the Caribbean, Oceania,
and the Middle East



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How to choose citizenship or residency with this guide

To choose a second citizenship or residency, you need to consider many criteria and nuances. These include the family's goals and budget, the requirements for the investor and their relatives, and the timeline in which the investor wants to obtain a second passport or residence permit.

This guide provides key information on the opportunities available with a second passport or residence permit, investment amounts, and the main requirements for applicants.

The guide is divided into five sections:

1. Citizenship for investors in Malta, Turkey, Egypt, and Paraguay.
2. Citizenship of Caribbean countries and Vanuatu.
3. Residency by investment in Hungary, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Malta, the UAE, Andorra, and the USA.
4. Residency for financially independent persons in Portugal, Austria, and Switzerland.
5. Digital Nomad Visas to Portugal, Italy, Spain, Hungary, and Malta.

Each section compares the statuses based on benefits and application conditions. If you want to explore all options, we recommend reading the guide from start to finish. To assess your desired option, go directly to the relevant section.

Schedule a consultation with our investment program experts for a personalised analysis of your situation and a tailored solution. The meeting can be conducted online or at one of Immigrant Invest's offices. Our lawyers will explain the specifics of Due Diligence checks and the rights and obligations with a second passport or residence permit.

[Book a meeting](#)

How to obtain citizenship by investment

To live by the sea, travel visa-free, and access quality education and healthcare

 Malta

 Turkey

 Egypt

 Paraguay



Benefits of citizenship by investment

Investors obtain citizenship for life.
It grants the right to live in the country,
do business, travel visa-free, and, in some
cases, reduce tax burdens.

120+ countries are available
visa-free with a Maltese, Turkish
or Paraguayan passport, while
Egyptian citizens freely visit
80+ destinations



Malta



Turkey



Egypt



Paraguay

Visa-free destinations

160+

120+

80+

140+

Schengen Area

Visa-free

No time limits for stays in Malta

90 days out of 180 in other Schengen countries

Schengen visa is required

Turkish citizens can obtain a 5-year C-2 visa

Schengen visa is required

Visa-free trips up to 90 days within 180 days

USA

Tourist trips for up to 90 days – visa-free with an ESTA permit

Trips for up to 180 days per year – a B-1/B-2 Visitor Visa valid for 10 years can be obtained

B-1/B-2 Visitor Visa for 10 years for tourist trips

Renewable 5-year E-2 Visa for business and residency in the USA

Visa is required

Renewable 5-year E-2 Visa for business and residency in the USA

B-1/B-2 Visitor Visa for 10 years for tourist trips



Malta



Turkey



Egypt



Paraguay

Tax benefits

No annual property tax

No withholding tax on dividends, interest, and royalties paid to non-residents

Standard VAT rate – 18%

Shareholders can reclaim up to 100% of corporate tax paid by the company, depending on its form and activities

Double Taxation Treaties with 70 countries

Standard VAT rate – 20%

Companies registered in free zones do not pay corporate tax

No VAT for foreigners on real estate purchases in new properties from the developer

Double Taxation Treaties with 85 countries

9 free zones where company owners do not pay corporate tax

Double Taxation Treaties with 60 countries

Personal income tax rate – 10%

No taxes on foreign income, property, or capital gains

To become a tax resident, a foreigner must live in Paraguay for at least 120 days per year

Double Taxation Treaties with 85 countries, including Spain

Renunciation of the first citizenship




Not required

Not required

Not required

Required

Investments and timeframes

	 Malta	 Turkey	 Egypt	 Paraguay
Obtaining period	1 or 3 years of residency	8+ months	10+ months	4+ years of living in the country
Investments	€690,000+	\$400,000+	\$250,000+	€7,200+ to get residency
Investment options	<p>The investor meets 3 conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute €600,000+ to the National Development and Social Fund Purchase or rent accommodation – €700,000+ for purchasing or €16,000+ per year for 5-year rent Donate €10,000+ to an NGO 	<p>\$400,000+ Real estate purchase</p> <p>\$500,000+ Business investments</p> <p>\$500,000+ Bank deposit</p> <p>\$500,000+ Government bond purchase</p> <p>\$500,000+ Investment fund shares purchase</p>	<p>\$250,000+ Non-refundable contribution</p> <p>\$300,000+ Real estate purchase</p> <p>\$350,000+ Business investments</p> <p>\$500,000+ Bank deposit</p>	No investments required



Malta



Turkey



Egypt



Paraguay

Return on investment

5 years for a real estate purchase

3 years

5 years for a real estate purchase or business investments

No investments required

3 years for a deposit

Fees

€15,000+
Due Diligence

\$574
Processing fee

\$10,000
Government fee

€3,000+
Residency costs, including fees

€1,500+
Administrative fee

\$165
Passport fee

\$100,000
Non-refundable contribution for business investments

€4,200+
Permanent residency costs, including fees

\$25
Citizenship certificate fee

Total expenses





Customised calculation

Customised calculation


Customised calculation

Customised calculation

Requirements for applicants

	 Malta	 Turkey	 Egypt	 Paraguay
Investor	<p>Over 18</p> <p>Legal income</p> <p>No criminal records or prosecutions</p> <p>Not under sanctions</p> <p>No visa denials</p>	<p>Over 18</p> <p>Legal income</p> <p>No criminal records</p> <p>No severe illnesses</p>	<p>Over 18</p> <p>Legal income</p> <p>No severe illnesses</p>	<p>Over 18</p> <p>No severe illnesses</p>
Eligible family members	<p>Spouse</p> <p>Children under 18</p> <p>Children aged 18 to 29 if dependent on the investor and unmarried</p> <p>Parents and grandparents over 55, dependent on the investor</p>	<p>Spouse</p> <p>Children under 18</p>	<p>Spouse</p> <p>Children under 21 if unmarried</p>	<p>Spouse by separate application</p> <p>Children under 18 get residence permits with the main applicant and passports after turning 18</p> <p>Children over 18 and parents submit separate applications</p>

Passport validity and grounds for revocation of citizenship

 **Malta and Turkey's passports** are renewed every 10 years. In Malta, children receive passports for shorter periods: children under 10 get passports for 2 years and those aged 10 to 15 get passports for 5 years.

 **Egypt's passport** is valid for 7 years

 **Paraguay's passport** is granted for 5 years.

Passport renewal applications must be submitted in person and within a specific timeframe. For example, the Maltese passport renewal application can be submitted no earlier than 3 months before the expiry date.

Immigrant Invest lawyers will remind you of the passport renewal, assist with gathering documents, and help submit the application.

Citizenship by investment can be revoked

for several reasons:

1. The investor provided false information when applying for citizenship.
2. The investor failed to meet the legal requirements, such as selling assets before the specified period.
3. The citizen poses a threat to national security or commits a serious offence.
4. The citizen has not lived in the country for a long time. For example, in Malta, one can lose their passport if they don't reside on the island for 7 years.

To obtain lifelong citizenship without the risk of losing it, one must provide accurate information, thoroughly prepare for the Due Diligence check, and comply with all conditions set by the country's laws.

[Learn more about Due Diligence](#)

How to obtain citizenship of Caribbean countries and Vanuatu

To gain global mobility, tax optimisation, and relocation to a tropical paradise

 Antigua and Barbuda

 St Kitts and Nevis

 Grenada

 St Lucia

 Dominica







 Vanuatu






Benefits of Caribbean and Vanuatu citizenship

Citizenship of a Caribbean country or Vanuatu is granted for life. Along with a second passport, investors gain visa-free travel, tax optimisation, the option to relocate to the islands, or establish a backup plan for themselves and their family.

Neither of the six countries require to live there permanently before or after obtaining citizenship by investment

	 Antigua and Barbuda	 Grenada	 Dominica	 St Kitts and Nevis	 St Lucia	 Vanuatu
Visa-free destinations	150+	140+	140+	150+	140+	100+
Visa-free Schengen Area for 90/180 days	●	●	●	●	●	●
Visa-free UK for 180 days	●	●	●	●	●	●
Visa-free China	●	●	●	●	●	●
Eligibility for the E-2 Visa to the USA	●	●	●	●	●	●

	 Antigua and Barbuda	 Grenada	 Dominica	 St Kitts and Nevis	 St Lucia	 Vanuatu
Validity of the B-1/B-2 Visitor Visa to the USA	10 years	10 years	10 years	10 years	10 years	5 years
Taxation specifics	No taxes on income, capital gains, and inheritance IBC companies are exempt from foreign-sourced taxes for 50 years	No taxes on worldwide income, capital gains, and inheritance	No taxes on capital gains and inheritance	No taxes on income, capital gains, and inheritance	No taxes on worldwide income, capital gains, and inheritance	No taxes on income, capital gains, and inheritance No corporate tax for 20 years, replaced by an annual fee of \$300
Passport validity	5 years – first passport 10 years – subsequent passports	5 years	10 years for applicants over 16 5 years for applicants under 16	10 years for applicants over 16 5 years for applicants under 16	5 years	10 years

Investments and timeframes

Investors can obtain Caribbean or Vanuatu citizenship in just a few months. If the investor purchases real estate or government bonds, they can recover the funds within 3–7 years.

The investment amount and other costs for obtaining citizenship depend on the family composition and the chosen option.

Vanuatu offers the lowest investment threshold of \$130,000, while the citizenship can be obtained in just 2+ months

	 Antigua and Barbuda	 Grenada	 Dominica	 St Kitts and Nevis	 St Lucia	 Vanuatu
Obtaining period	6+ months	8+ months	6+ months	6+ months	6+ months	2+ months
1st option Fund contribution	\$230,000+	\$235,000+	\$200,000+	\$250,000+	\$240,000+	\$130,000+
2nd option Real estate purchase	\$300,000+ in government-approved properties	\$270,000+ in government-approved properties	\$200,000+ in government-approved properties	\$325,000+ in government-approved properties	\$300,000+ in government-approved properties	No
Total expenses	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>



Antigua and Barbuda



Grenada



Dominica



St Kitts and Nevis



St Lucia



Vanuatu

Other options

\$260,000+
Contribution to a higher educational institution, only for families of 6+

\$400,000+
Business investments

No

No

\$250,000+
Investments in social or infrastructure projects

\$300,000+
Purchase of government bonds

\$250,000+
Investments in infrastructure and business projects

\$157,000+
Investments in the CNO Future Fund

Total expenses

Customised calculation

Customised calculation

Customised calculation

Customised calculation

Customised calculation

Customised calculation

Requirements for applicants

The main requirements for an investor are to be over 18, have a legal income, no criminal record, and no serious illnesses. To obtain a Vanuatu passport, a bank balance of at least \$250,000 must be shown.

Depending on the country, citizenship is also granted to the investor's spouse, children, parents, grandparents, and siblings



Antigua and Barbuda



Grenada



Dominica



St Kitts and Nevis



St Lucia



Vanuatu

Children

Under 30, financial dependency is not required

Under 30, financially dependent on the investor

Under 30, financially dependent on the investor

Under 25, financially dependent on the investor

Under 30, financially dependent on the investor

Under 25, financially dependent on the investor

Parents and grandparents

Over 55, financially dependent on the investor

Financially dependent on the investor

Over 65, financially dependent on the investor

Over 55, financially dependent on the investor

Over 55, financially dependent on the investor

Over 50, financially dependent on the investor

Siblings

Any age, unmarried

Over 18, unmarried, without children

No

No

Under 18, with parent/guardian's consent

No

Where to obtain residency by investment

To relocate, travel visa-free,
and optimise taxes

 Portugal

 Hungary

 Greece

 Italy

 Cyprus

 UAE

 Andorra

 USA





Benefits of residency by investment




A residence permit allows one to relocate to a country. However, investors typically are not required to live in the country and can visit for just a few days each year.

	 Malta, residence permit	 Malta, permanent residency	 Portugal	 Greece	 Hungary
Visa-free Schengen Area for 90/180 days	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mandatory residing in the country	No, but one cannot spend 183+ days a year in another country	No	7 days a year	No	4+ months within 3 years to qualify for permanent residency
Permit validity	1 year, then renewal every 2 years	Lifelong, an ID card is renewed every 5 years	2 years, then renewal every 2 years	5 years, renewable	10 years, once renewable for 10 more years


	 Italy	 Cyprus	 UAE	 Andorra	 USA
Visa-free Schengen Area for 90/180 days	Yes	No	No	No, but a Schengen visa is issued within 1 day	No
Mandatory residing in the country	No	Visiting the country once every 2 years	Visiting the country 1–2 times every 6 months	90+ days a year	Yes, leaving the USA for more than a year is prohibited
Permit validity	2 years, renewed for 3 years	Lifelong, an ID card is renewed every 10 years	Renewable residence visa for 2 or 10 years	1 year, renewable	Conditional Green Card for 2 years Green Card for 10 years


Citizenship by naturalisation after residency


Residents may apply for citizenship by naturalisation provided they meet certain conditions.


 **In Portugal**, the investor must maintain residency for 5 years to apply for citizenship. Living in the country permanently is not required. The application can be submitted 5 years after paying the fee for the first residence permit card.


To obtain a passport, the investor must demonstrate Portuguese language proficiency at the A2 level and have no criminal record.


 **In Greece**, citizenship can be applied for after 7 years of living in the country. Applicants must pass exams in language, culture, history, geography, and the country's governance system.

 **In Hungary**, citizenship is granted after 11 years of living in the country: 3 years with a temporary residence permit and 8 years with permanent residency. To obtain national permanent residency, one must live in Hungary for three years on a temporary permit and not leave the country for more than four consecutive months. Permanent status is granted for life.

 **In Italy,** citizenship can be obtained by naturalisation after 10 years of living in the country: 5 years with a residence permit and 5 years with permanent residency. Applicants must spend at least 183 days per year in Italy.

 **In Cyprus,** investors can apply for citizenship after 8 years of living in the country. They must pass an exam in the Greek language, history, and culture.

 **In the UAE,** a foreigner can acquire citizenship by naturalisation after 30 years of residency, but they must renounce other citizenships. However, exceptions can be made for investors, granting citizenship earlier with the right to retain their original citizenship.

 **In the USA,** an investor with an EB-5 visa receives a Green Card after 2 years. After 5 more years, they can apply for citizenship.

Timeframes and real estate investments

In addition to investments, applicants pay government fees, bank commissions, taxes, and the cost of support services. It is possible to get the money back after several years for most options, except for real estate rentals, government and charitable contributions.






The residence permit card is issued within 2+ months after the application is submitted. The completed document is sent to the registered address in the country or to a trusted lawyer

	 Malta, residence permit	 Malta, permanent residency	 Portugal	 Greece	 Hungary
Obtaining period	3+ months	6+ months	12+ months	4+ months	5+ months
Real estate purchase	Yes, as one of the conditions	Yes, as one of the conditions	No	Yes	No
Investments in real estate	€220,000+ for purchase	€375,000+ for purchase	No	€250,000+ for properties under restoration or conversion into residential €400,000–800,000+ for new properties	No
Total expenses	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>

	 Italy	 Cyprus	 UAE	 Andorra	 USA
Obtaining period	4+ months	9+ months	2+ months	2+ months	5+ years
Real estate purchase	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Investments in real estate	No	€300,000+	AED 750,000+ (\$204,000+)	€600,000+ + €50,000+ as a security deposit	No
Total expenses	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>

Alternative options

	 Malta, residence permit	 Malta, permanent residency	 Portugal	 Greece	 Hungary
Property rental and investments in businesses, culture, and more	<p>€8,750+ a year Property rent for 5 years</p> <p>€15,000+ a year Mandatory income tax</p>	<p>€14,000+ Annual property rent</p> <p>€99,000+ Fees for obtaining permanent residency</p>	<p>€250,000+ Support of art and culture</p> <p>€500,000+ Units of investment funds</p> <p>€500,000+ Support of scientific research</p> <p>€500,000+ and 5 jobs Business investments</p> <p>Opening a company</p>	<p>€350,000+ Units of investment funds</p> <p>€400,000+ Rent or timeshare of tourist properties, inherited real estate</p> <p>€500,000+ Bank deposit, government bonds, business investments</p> <p>€800,000+ Securities and government bonds</p>	<p>€250,000+ Units of investment funds</p> <p>€1,000,000+ Donation to a higher educational institution</p>
Total expenses	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>






	 Italy	 Cyprus	 UAE	 Andorra	 USA
Purchase of fund units, securities, shares, and more	€250,000+ Investments in startups €500,000+ Business investments €1,000,000+ Charitable donation €2,000,000+ Government bonds	€300,000+ Purchase of securities or company shares	No	€550,000+ Deposit, purchase of securities or business investments + €50,000+ as a security deposit	\$870,000+ Business investments
Total expenses	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>

Residency for family members

Basic requirements for the investor are to be over 18, have no criminal records, and earn legal income outside the chosen country. The investor must also be in good health.

Along with the investor, spouse, children, and sometimes parents can also obtain residence permits. The age requirements for children and parents vary.

Some countries allow not only children and parents to be included in the application but also grandparents and siblings

	 Malta, residence permit	 Malta, permanent residency	 Portugal	 Greece	 Hungary
Children	Under 25, financially dependent on the investor	Up to 29, unmarried, and financially dependent on the investor	Under 26, financially dependent on the investor	Under 21, unmarried	Up to 25; unmarried and financially dependent on the investor if over 18
Parents	Any age and financially dependent on the investor Grandparents and siblings can qualify	Any age and principally dependent on the investor Grandparents can qualify	Any age and financially dependent on the investor	Any age and financial dependency is not required	Any age if financially dependent on the investor and have pension payments as the only source of income



Italy



Cyprus



UAE



Andorra



USA

Children

Any age, unmarried, have no children, and financially dependent on the investor

Under 25, financially dependent on the investor

Sons under 25 if unmarried and financially dependent on the investor

Daughters of any age if unmarried

Under 25 if students and financially dependent on the investor

Under 21 and unmarried

Parents

Any age and financial dependency is not required

No

No

No

No

Residency for financially independent individuals

To live in the European Union
and travel visa-free

 Portugal




 Austria

 Switzerland



Requirements for applicants

Foreigners with passive income are eligible to obtain residence permits in some EU countries. Such applicants must demonstrate their income and purchase or rent a residential property in the country.

	 Portugal	 Austria	 Switzerland
Obtaining period	6+ months	3+ months	3+ months
Passive income	€870 per month	€2,548+ per month	£450,000+ Lump-sum tax per year
Time to citizenship	5 years	10 years	10 years
Mandatory residing	8+ months per year	183+ days per year	183+ days per year



Portugal



Austria



Switzerland

Eligible family members

Spouse

Spouse

Spouse

Children under 21

Children under 18

Children under 18

Siblings under 18

Parents

Total expenses

[Customised calculation](#)

[Customised calculation](#)

[Customised calculation](#)

Digital Nomad Visas

For comfortable remote work and travel

 Portugal

 Spain

 Italy

 Malta

 Hungary



Requirements for applicants

Foreigners with remote income are eligible to obtain residence permits in five EU countries. Such applicants must demonstrate their income and purchase or rent a residential property in the country.

The property type and price of renting or purchasing are not limited. The main requirement is that the apartment or house be suitable for permanent residence

	 Portugal	 Spain	 Italy	 Malta	 Hungary
Obtaining period	6+ months	4+ months	4+ months	2+ months	3+ months
Remote monthly income	€3,480+	€2,762+	€2,700+	€3,500+	€3,000+
Time to citizenship	5 years	10 years	10 years	Residing with the visa does not count for permanent residency and citizenship	Residing with the visa does not count for permanent residency and citizenship
Mandatory residing	8+ months per year	No	183+ days per year	5+ months per year	90/180 days
Eligible family members	Spouse, children, and parents	Spouse and children	Spouse, children, and parents	Spouse and children	No
Total expenses	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>	<u>Customised calculation</u>

Summing up

Which citizenship or residency
will solve your tasks better



Which country to choose?

For global travel

If the document is needed for visa-free travel to Schengen countries and other states, Caribbean citizenship offers the best balance of cost, processing time, and benefits.

 Antigua and Barbuda

 Grenada

 Dominica

 Saint Kitts and Nevis

 Saint Lucia

For confidence in the future or relocation

Citizenship or residency in the EU and the UAE allow you to move to the chosen country and stay there for as long as you need. With passports of Egypt, Turkey, or Grenada, you can obtain an E-2 Business Visa and relocate to the USA.

 Portugal

 Hungary

 Greece

 Spain

 Malta

 Cyprus

 UAE

 Turkey

 Grenada

 Egypt

 Paraguay

For children's education and career opportunities

Malta citizenship provides the widest range of opportunities: with it, a child can choose to study and work in any EU country. If targeting a specific country, residence or citizenship can be obtained there.

 Malta

 Portugal

 Hungary

 Greece

 Spain

 USA

For tax optimisation

Consider countries with zero tax rates for individuals and companies: the UAE, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Vanuatu. Also, favourable tax regimes in European countries can be useful.

 UAE

 Antigua and Barbuda

 Saint Kitts and Nevis

 Vanuatu

 Greece

 Cyprus

 Andorra

For comfortable remote work from anywhere in the world

With a Digital Nomad Visa, you can combine work and leisure: for example, tackle tasks at a seaside café and then enjoy an evening at La Scala.

 Portugal

 Malta

 Spain

 Hungary

 Italy

